

REAL PYTHON FEAST

Why Lieut. Smith and His Sergeant Espoused Vegetarianism.

They Appeared Iggrore Etiquette by Eating Two Portions of Bonat Snake—Didn't Like Its Taste or Smell.

"Ever eat any snake?" asked Sergt. Bill Hunter in the Annex grillroom last night of a Chicago Post man who was sitting across the table hearing how L. company, Seventeenth regiment, had suppressed the insurrection in Luzon. The newspaper man admitted that he had never eaten any serpent. Sergt. Bill then told him what he knew about boiled python as an entrée.

"We did harder things than kill niggers over there," said Bill, "and this was one of them. Lieut. Smith—Ernest G. Smith, a Yale man and a good soldier—with a squad of men was building a bridge somewhere in Tarlac. I was cutting mahogany trees on a mountain side when I saw a big python awing down out of a tree and glower at me as if he didn't like me. He was 16 feet long and as thick as my waist. We shot him nine times before he died.

"As we dragged him into camp that evening to show him to Smith a whole village of mountain dwarfs trailed behind. When we reached the lieutenant's tent the chief, with much ceremony, asked for the carcass, saying that his tribe had watched and waited on the snake a month. He told the lieutenant he wanted to give a python feast.

"Just at that time those Ig-rotos were good people to stand in with. If they took a dislike to you they could hide their little bodies in the trees and plug away at you with their bows and arrows and do much damage. So the lieutenant said they could have the snake. The chief then invited him to the feast.

"This was a trifle more than Lieut. Smith had bargained for, but to decline meant to offend the chief. He ac-



WE ATE TWO PORTIONS.

cepted and asked if he could bring a friend. I was the friend.

"We went up into the mountain that night after dark. The huts of the village were built in a circle, and in the center were a number of fires. The python had been skinned, carved and divided. Little groups of dwarfs squatted around these fires and cooked the snake. We were escorted to the chief's dining place.

"When they handed me a big chunk of that thing I nearly reeled. It was white, sort of slimy looking and the smell was not pleasant. But I saw the lieutenant bite into his, and I shut my eyes and followed. It tasted like chicken, only it was gamier. We ate two portions, the lieutenant and I, before we were certain that Iggrore etiquette had been appeased. But we never ate any more. Both of us are vegetarians now."

Keepers Have Fight with Alligators.
When the keepers, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Shannon, attempted to remove the alligators from their pen in Central park, New York, to their winter quarters under the lion house the other day the animals rebelled, and it was only after the largest one had been tied up with ropes and the smaller one placed in bags that they were subdued. While they were being transferred they bit at the keepers, and roared so loudly that many people were attracted to the scene.

The keepers were greeted with savage roars when they approached the largest alligator in the pen and tried place a rope about its head. Every time the keeper came near with the rope in his hand the animal bit at him, and finally the keeper retired to devise a plan by which he could get the rope about his neck. This was done with the assistance of another keeper and a loud noise to divert the reptile. Then Mr. Snyder, by a quick movement, succeeded in lassoing the alligator. Tying it to a post, the keepers succeeded, after much maneuvering, in putting the rope about its nose and under its jaws so it could not bite. Struggling and making desperate efforts to free himself, the alligator was carried into its winter home.

Loaning of Jewelry.

It is the practice of London West end jewelers to loan magnificent tiaras and other articles of jewelry for special occasions. These things are loaned as a courtesy to specially good customers, while other people less well known must make a deposit of the value of the jewels before taking them.

Derivation of "Tawdry."

"Tawdry" is derived from St. Audrey. In the early middle ages fairs were held in France and England on St. Audrey day, and those annual gatherings became noted for the gaudy and worthless jewelry sold at them.

NEW ARMORED BEETLE.

It Preys on All Sorts of Caterpillars and Carries a Cruel, Death-Dealing Lance.

Nature has once more proved that she knows how to manage affairs in her numerous departments. While the suburbs are still bewailing a plague of caterpillars she has begun the work of extermination. She has sent a bug to do the work, and it is a wonderful bug indeed—a bug errant, one might say, for it has a lance and a suit of armor and just as much devotion to duty as any knight one ever read about.

This remarkable bug does not seem to have any mission upon earth ex-



THE CATERPILLAR'S ENEMY.
(Unattractive Beetle That Is Delighting Eastern Gardeners.)

cept to fight caterpillars. It would rather fight than eat, and whenever it fights it eats, so that it takes an enthusiastic interest in the campaign. Its appetite would be disgraceful in a bug of less exemplary pursuits. There is a specimen in the Philadelphia North American office, says that paper, which has devoured more than ten times its weight in caterpillars in one day.

But the most remarkable thing about this ferocious insect is its method of attack. It does not use sharp claws, like some beetles, nor poison, like spiders. It has a little way of its own.

Fastened by a flexible joint to the lower part of the body is a lance and with this deadly weapon the bug does rapid execution. It attacks a caterpillar like a torpedo boat attacking an unprotected cruiser. It creeps on its prey quietly, then makes a sudden rush. Raising itself when near the victim, it lets the lance drop forward, then leaps upon the poor, fuzzy thing and drives the sharp point home.

There follows a violent struggle, of course. The caterpillar squirms and twists and rolls itself about, but the lance holds and there is no escape.

The bug does not let go until it has satisfied itself. Gradually the form of the caterpillar shrinks and when its little enemy withdraws the lance and backs away there is only the skin of the worm left.

The bug is about three-eighths of an inch long and oval in shape. It has six legs and two delicate feelers. The back is curiously marked, the front part being a light brown, the back part dull yellow. There are markings in black, in which may be traced a caricature of a Japanese face. Underneath the insect is colored light yellow and light green.

MEMORIAL TO HUMBERT.

Erected in the Pantheon at Rome by the Officers and Men of the Italian Artillery.

The monument which was recently unveiled in the pantheon in Rome to the memory of King Humbert is a masterpiece of sculpture, which has received the praise of the majority of the



TRIBUTE TO HUMBERT.
(Erected in the Pantheon at Rome by the Italian Artillery.)

artificers of the old world. The creator of this monument is Prof. Diego Sarti, of Bologna, whose reputation was established over a decade ago, when he exhibited his Venus at the Bologna exposition in 1888. Since then many of the fountains in European capitals were fashioned by his hand.

The memorial in the pantheon is remarkably bold in outline. It is the expression of sorrow and gratitude of the Italian artillery among whom King Humbert was exceedingly popular.

Two life-sized lions represent respectively the murdered king and the dying monarch, has a shield of honor on which are the names of Villafranca, Casamicciola, Busca, Napoli—the names rendered memorable in the life of King Humbert. The other lion has a shield with the names of Goita and Peshiera, the two places where the Italian artillery distinguished itself in so brilliant a manner during the century.

CROWD THE SCHOOLS

Filipinos, Old and Young, Are Very Eager to Learn.

Prof. Atkinson, Head of the Educational System for the Islands, Speaks Hopefully of the Future of His Work.

Considerable interest is manifested by the press in the report of Fred W. Atkinson, superintendent of public instruction in the Philippines, which has just reached Washington. It appears from this report that an effort is being made to displace Spanish with English in the schools, and, eventually, no doubt, throughout the islands. Says the Philadelphia Ledger:

"The most interesting part of the report . . . is the announcement that English has been adopted as the medium of instruction in the training of Filipino teachers, and that during the year English will displace Spanish in the schools. Spanish was the official language during the old regime, but even then it was used by a very small proportion of the inhabitants, who speak various Philippine dialects. There are many difficulties in the way of a sudden transition from Spanish to English, but under the gradual process of educating the youth the change will probably be made easily and naturally."

Another interesting part of the report tells about the selection of teachers. To quote again from the same paper:

"The Philippine school law authorized the appointment from the United States of 1,000 school teachers, and of these 781 have been selected. Of the 487 soldiers who applied for positions, 79 passed the examinations, and have exchanged the bayonet for the pen. The school-teachers chosen seem generally to be of an unusually high grade, both in character and ability. The 781 were sifted from among over 8,000 applicants, who filed strong testimonials from trustworthy sources, and care was taken to select those who had given evidence of equipment and teaching ability, rather than those who applied because they



FREDERICK W. ATKINSON.
(Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Philippines.)

had nothing else to do. In many instances ambitious young men have entered upon the work, who were filling most acceptable positions as teachers at home.

"The educational system in the archipelago consists of 18 divisions, each with a division superintendent. One high school in each division will be established next year, and teachers' institutes will soon be held in all the provinces."

The Filipinos, old and young, are very eager to learn, and they crowd the schoolrooms until sometimes one teacher has 100 or even 200 scholars.

The question of religious instruction was soon settled. Says the report: "Upon receipt of an official copy of act No. 74 of the Philippine commission, which forbids any religious instruction by the teacher, a comprehensive order was issued forbidding the practice of religious devotions or their employment as means of punishment, the discontinuance of all teaching of the catechism or religious doctrine, and the removal from the schoolhouse of all books containing such matter, and the removal from schoolrooms of crucifixes, religious emblems, sacred pictures, placards, etc. These orders were complied with. There was no protest from either parents or teachers, and, as above stated, no diminution in the attendance, the school year closing with the largest attendance in the history of these public schools. To many of the teachers the change was apparently welcome.

The people are so eager to learn that Superintendent Atkinson thinks "it will not be necessary to resort to compulsory education," and he adds the interesting remark that "Tagalo children, both male and female, are the most precocious I have even seen, very bright and studious and exceedingly well behaved."

German with Irish Brogue.

Of late years many German boys go to Ireland to learn the language and acquire at the same time the Irish middle-class opinion of England, which they cherish and propagate on their return to their native land. Perhaps, says the Outlook, that is one of the sources of German dislike for the Englishman. Another thing that the German boy acquires in Ireland is a rich and varied brogue, and one of the most amusing things one hears in Germany is the waiter who speaks German-Irish-English. A music hall comedian who could adequately imitate this combination, as I have frequently heard it, would certainly make his fortune. Next to this in ludicrousness is the cockney English of many porters and waiters—learned, I have no doubt, within the sound of Bow Bells.

TOOK WIFE'S ADVICE.

How Mr. McNolan, of Detroit, Got into Deep Water as the Result of Obedience.

Many have heard the story of the two Norwegian brothers. One of them was on the boat when she started out. She was 30 feet from the dock when the other came rushing down, just a few seconds too late. The one aboard leaped over the railing and shouted: "Yump, Olie, yump; you can make it in two yumps."

This authentic Detroit instance is alike, with a difference. One Michael McNolan, a sewer contractor in the pick department, was giving his folks an outing, and chose the Tashmo as



BROUGHT UP HIS PIPE.

the means of transportation. On the way to the boat Michael dropped in every little while to light his pipe. That was his explanation, at least, and the more he fired his duddeh the less disposition it showed to burn, except between beer signs.

The family were all comfortable on the upper deck and watching for the liege lord and paymaster when the machinery began to work and the boat to move. It was five feet away when the belated passenger appeared, his face red and his pipe working like a smoke stack. He stood on the edge of the deck steadying himself and swinging his arms to give impetus to a jump, when the good wife issued an order: "Git back, Molke, git back, and make a good run for the jump. Yez can never make it standin'."

Mike obeyed. By the time he made his run the boat was 20 feet off, but he made a gallant effort, went out of sight in his best store clothes for a bathing suit and came up spitting out water and things profane for which a later explanation would be required. He scorned life preservers showered upon him, dove down and brought up his pipe, swam to the side of the boat, and when safely aboard demanded a reduction in fare.

CHICAGO HAS A WITCH.

Thomas Kelly Discovers a Woman with an Evil Eye and Is Arrested for Stoning Her.

The curse of Salem is on Chicago. According to Thomas Kelly, the same old witchcraft that used to cause the good Puritans of the colonial town to lie awake nights is exercised by a woman who is his near neighbor.

"Her vengeance is awful," Kelly said to a Chicago American reporter. "Her curse is the curse of Satan. Only recently she had a quarrel with Mrs. Cohen, another of my neighbors. Mrs. Cohen won and the witch put a curse upon her.

"First Cohen's horse died. That was a few days after the curse was pro-



THE WITCH WANTED FIFTY.

nounced. Cohen was almost helpless without the horse. Then Mrs. Cohen became ill. There was grief in the house. No work for the man and the wife sick. To cap all Cohen became paralyzed in one side."

This Chicago witch has acquired the city's commercial spirit. The curse did not last forever. Mrs. Cohen finally became well. Then, according to Kelly, she offered the witch \$10 to remove the curse. But the witch demanded \$50.

Kelly's blood boiled. He determined to punish the witch for her witchcraft. He made himself a martyr for the ill of the Cohens. He could not throw the witch into a pond, bound to sink or swim. He could not burn her at the stake, according to the most approved custom. So he decided to stone her. This was a course almost as well sanctioned by precedent as burning.

The woman of uncanny powers was in the house when Kelly went to stone her, so he threw the stones through the windows. She had him arrested, and he was taken before Justice Sabbath, where the story came out.

Tough Beefsteak Made Tender.
A tough beefsteak can be made tender and delicious by sending a current of electricity through it. So says William T. Bryan, a Cincinnati electrician.

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